

BALTIMORE CITY--COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CDBG SURVEY YEAR: 12
AREA: Oliver vicinity

SURVEY NO.: B-3969
MAGI NO.: 0439695724

ADDRESS: 1500-1506 Harford Avenue
CURRENT NAME: Baltimore Tabernacle of Prayer



BLOCK: 1123 LOT: 16 LOT SIZE:
HEIGHT: 3 MATERIALS: Brick
CONDITION: Fair OWNER: Baltimore Tabernacle of Prayer Inc.

USE: Religious ADDRESS: 1500-1506 Harford Avenue
DESIGNATION: ACCESSIBLE: Yes
LIBER/FOLIO: CWM 4236-113

HISTORIC NAME: Apollo Theatre
DATE: Ca. 1920
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Guilford Building Co., builder
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE):

DESCRIPTION:

The Apollo Theatre is a three story brick building erected about 1920 with a roof featuring flat and mansard sections and an ornamental brick facade which is located on the northwest side of Harford Avenue just north of Oliver Street in east Baltimore. The main elevation with the theatre entrance faces southeast. The facade is dominated by two stucco piers outlined in brick terminating at the roofline in round arches. Between the piers is a group of three bays with window openings which are now mostly covered over. These bays are also outlined in brick. Diamond terra cotta inserts are placed throughout the facade as embellishments. Just below the corbeled brick cornice is the name "Apollo" in brick lettering. The entrance level of the theater is largely covered by panels, but the original three doorways are still in place. The center doorway contains a boarded-up ticket window. The marquee is enclosed in panels and carries a sign with the name of the church now occupying the building. The southwest corner of the building has a slate mansard and an ornamental brick wall surface. Although now covered by panels, this was originally a storefront with an entrance at the flat corner facing south. The rear section of the building is functional in design, with the flat roof stepping down toward the screen area at the northwest corner.

SIGNIFICANCE:

AREA: architecture LEVEL: local

The Apollo Theater is a good example of an early 20th century neighborhood movie theater. Its distinctive ornamental facade sets it apart from the rowhouse neighborhood surrounding it and a corner store is incorporated in the design of the building. The Apollo opened on January 8, 1921 and was still operating as a theater in the mid-1970's. By 1982, it had been converted to a church. Robert Headley in Exit states the balcony at the Apollo was an unusual feature for a neighborhood theater of this period. The corner store was leased to a confectioner from 1921 to about 1925, but was apparently not operated separately after the mid-1920's.

SOURCES: Headley, Exit (1974); City Directories

SURVEYOR AND DATE: Janet Davis, August 1987



Apollo Theater B-3969
Ca. 1920
Maryland Historical Society



CASINO/BEACON (1938)



SUPERA (1971)



MCCOY/FULTON (1935)



FOREST (1935)



RED WING (1935)

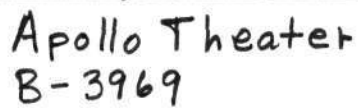


APOLLO (1921)

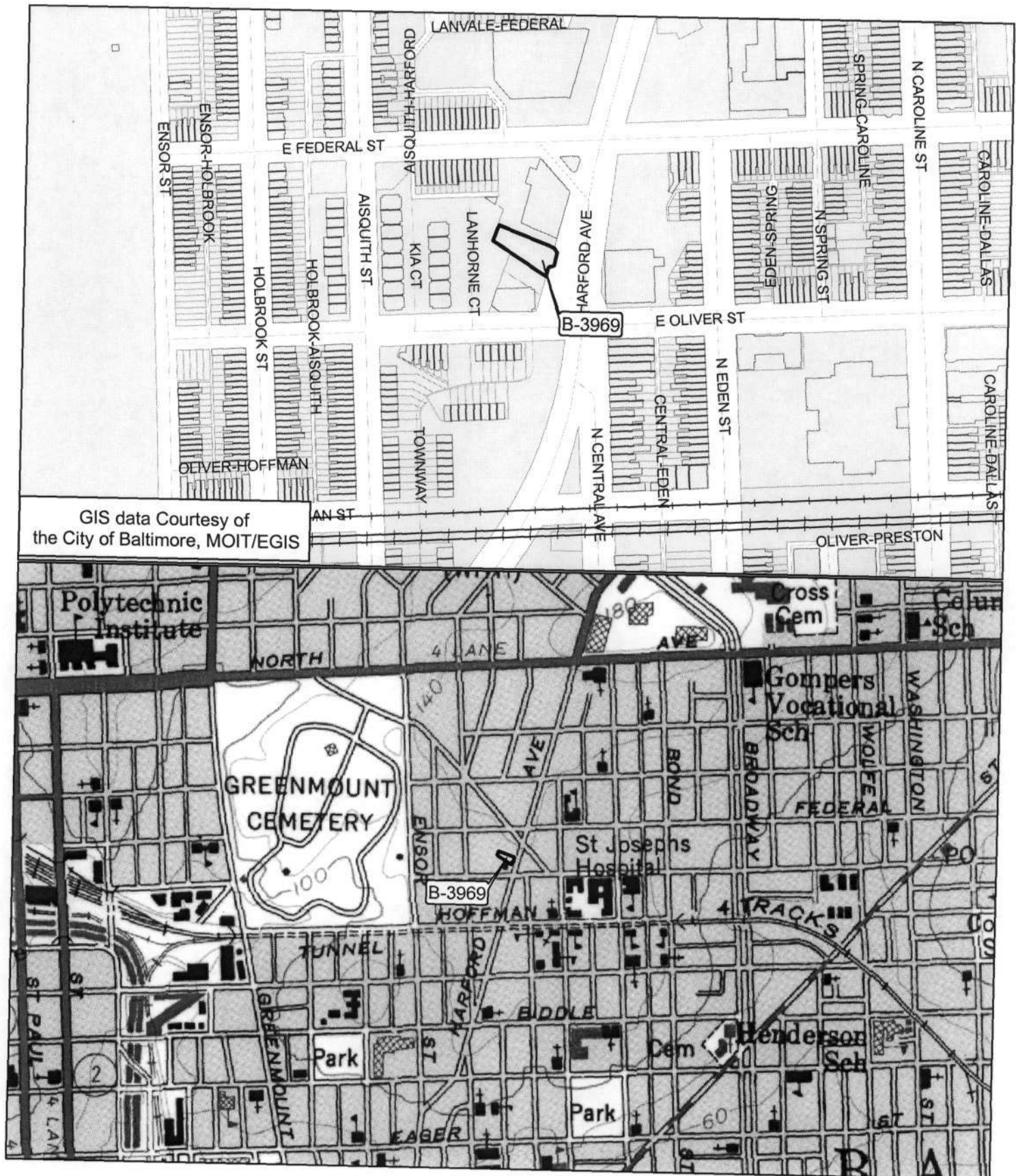
Plate 5

Source: Exit, Robert K. Headley, (1974)

B-3969



Apollo Theatre, Baltimore Tabernacle of Prayer
1500-1506 Harford Avenue
Block 1123 Lot 015
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





Apollo Theater

B-3969

1500-1506 Hartford Avenue

Baltimore, Maryland

Photographer: Janet Davis

July 1987

Neg. loc: Md. SHPO

General view from southeast

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Apollo Theater

B-3969

1500-1506 Hartford Avenue

Baltimore, Maryland

Photographer: Janet Davis

July 1987

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO

East elevation

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